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of the Southwest, for which section of the country this work was primarily prepared.

D. J. CROSBY.

Washington, D. C.

The Utilization of Wood Waste by Distillation. By WALTER B. HARPER. (St. Louis: Journal of Commerce Company. 1907. Pp. 157, with 74 illustrations. \$3 net).

This work deals chiefly with the physical and chemical principles relating to wood distillation and with the various forms of apparatus which have been devised for commercial use in carrying out the process. The descriptions are plainly written and profusely illustrated, and the literature of the subject seems to have been well searched and brought together. There has been available but little popular information on this subject and this book must prove of great use to those contemplating an essay into this field of industry.

Although it was written primarily for the man with immediate practical interest in the question, the book is of general interest as an illustration of the transition through which our country is now passing in many different lines of industry in beginning to use with greater care our abundant resources which have hitherto been profligately wasted.

The author states that fully 1,000,000 cords of wood are now wasted annually in the southern states which might be available as raw material for the process of wood distillation. This very apparent waste of material has led to the formation of many plans for its utilization by enthusiastic promoters, and it is to prevent fruitless attempts of this kind that the author devotes considerable space to a consideration of the conditions and factors which will determine whether any given projected plant will be a financial success or failure. This is the portion of the book of most general interest and includes a discussion of the effect of location, especially with regard to transportation and proximity to the raw material, the yields to be secured from different grades of raw material and their relative values, the extent of the demand for various re-

sulting products, labor and fuel conditions, and the relative merits and adaptability of different available processes.

S. M. WOODWARD.

Washington, D. C.

Three Acres and Liberty. By BOLTON HALL, assisted by R. F. POWELL, with an introduction by GEORGE T. POWELL. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. xxiii, 435. \$1.75).

A Little Land and a Living. By BOLTON HALL, with a letter as an introduction by WILLIAM BORSODI. (New York: The Arcadia Press, 1908. Pp. 287. \$1).

The author of these books is a lawyer interested in social problems and from this point of view approaches the subject of agriculture as a means of relieving urban poverty and congestion.

The title *A Little Land and a Living* would have been appropriate to the contents of both of these books. The title of the first book is entirely misleading. The author gives the experience of no one who has taken three acres of land and by cultivation made a living and secured "liberty," but it is his theory that it could be done. To justify his belief the author prepares this book,—compiling the bulk of it from other writers,—for the purpose of showing that a small piece of land when properly cultivated is capable of producing large crops. The returns from experiments in vacant city lot cultivation in New York and Philadelphia are given to bear out his contention that a living can be made from a small piece of land by intensive culture. With all this one may agree, but when it comes to accepting the author's conclusion that large farms are not necessary and give poorer returns than small farms, that is another matter. His theory strikes at the whole system of modern agriculture and fails to recognize that the production of small fruits, flowers, vegetables, drug plants, and novel live stock is not all there is to "farming." The great staple crops of cotton, corn, wheat, oats, flax, potatoes, and others cannot be raised to advantage on "three acres."

Be it said to the credit of the author that he sees there is a problem to be solved—the congestion of cities and the prevalence